

Abraham Lincoln papers

Abraham Lincoln, Notes for Speeches in Kansas and Ohio¹, [September 16 and 17, 1859]

1 On the heels of earlier appearances in Ohio by Stephen A. Douglas, Lincoln was invited by the Republican Central Committee of that state to give several speeches in September, 1859. He assented, and spoke in Columbus on September 16 and at Dayton and Cincinnati the next day. At least a part of the notes that he consulted, which follow, appears to have been assembled first in preparation for a trip to Kansas in February of that year which Lincoln never made. Nicolay and Hay identified them as notes for speeches in Kansas, but mistakenly presumed that they were used by Lincoln when he finally spoke there in December. Existing accounts of the speeches that he made in Kansas, however, suggest that those speeches were based on other material, whereas reports of Lincoln's earlier Ohio speeches make it plain that some of this material was incorporated into them. See William T. Bascom to Lincoln, September 1, 1859; *Collected Works*, III, 425n.

These notes exist in several segments or fragments, as noted below. Some more obviously relate to the Kansas territorial situation than others. They are part of the "Carpet Bag Papers" found by John G. Nicolay and added to this collection in 1874, most of which are heavily water-stained.

[Fragment 1]²

2 This fragment appears to be an earlier version of Fragment 7, q. v. below.

[We want,] and must have a national policy in regard [slavery,] which deals with it as being a wrong—Whoever [would prevent] its nationalization, and perpetuity, surrender [that?] when he yields to a policy treating it, either as being right, or as a matter of indifference—We admit that the general government is not charged with the duty of redressing, or preventing, every all wrongs in the world—But it rightfully may, subject to the constitution, redress, and prevent, all wrongs which are such wrongs to the nation itself—It is expressly charged with the duty of providing for the general welfare—We think slavery impairs and endangers the general welfare—Those who do not think think this, are not of us, and we can not argue with them—We must shape our own course, upon our own judgment—

We must <u>not</u> disturb slavery in the states where it exists, because the constitution, and peace of the country, both forbid us— We must allow allow <u>not</u> withold an efficient fugitive slave law, because the constitution requires it—



We must, by a national policy, prevent the <u>spread</u> of slavery into either teritories or free states; because the constitution does not forbid us, and the general welfare does require it— We must prevent the revival of the African slave trade, because the constitution does not forbid us, and the general welfare does require it— We must prevent these things being done, by either Congresses or courts— The people — the people — are the rightful masters of both congresses and courts — not to overthrow the constitution, but to overthrow <u>men</u> who pervert it—

3 "either teritories or free states" in pencil.

[To] effect our main object we have to employ auxil[iary] [means.] We must hold conventions, adopt platforms, select candidates, and carry elections: At every step we must be true to the main purpose — If we adopt a platform, falling short of our principle, or elect a <u>man</u> rejecting our principle, we not only take nothing affirmative by our success, but draw upon us the positive embarrassment of seeming to have ourselves abandoned our principles ourselves—

That our principle, however baffled, or delayed, will finally triumph, I do not permit myself to doubt, Men will pass away — die, politically, and naturally, but the principles will live, and live forever— Organizations, rallied around that principle, may, by their own foll, folly, go to pieces thereby losing all their time and labor— But the principle will remain, and will reproduce another, and another till the final triumph will come. But to bring it soon, to stay when brought, we must save our labor already performed — our organization, which has cost so much time and toil to create— We must keep our principle constantly in view— And, as to men for leaders, we must remember that "he that is not for us is against us— "he that gathereth not with us scattereth[."]⁴

4 "folly . . . scattereth" in pencil.

[Fragment 2]⁵

5 The editors of *Collected Works* adduce evidence suggesting that this fragment was originally drafted early in 1859 for delivery before the Kansas Republican Convention, but not delivered. *Collected Works*, III, 425n.

Introduction

Purpose of the Republican organization—



The Republican party believe there is danger that Slavery will be further extended, and ultimately made national in the United States; and to prevent this incidental, and final consummation, is the <u>purpose</u>

Chief danger to that purpose

A congressional slave code, for the territories, and the revival of the African trade and a second Dred Scott decision; are not, just now, the chief danger to our purpose— These will press us in due time, but they are not quite ready yet — they know that, as yet, we are too strong for them— The insidious Douglas popular sovereignty, which prepares the way for this ultimate danger, it is, which just now constitutes our chief danger—

Popular Sovereignty.

I say Douglas popular sovereignty; for there is a broad distinction between <u>real</u> popular Sovereignty and Douglas popular sovereignty—. That the nation shall control what concerns it; that a state, or any minor political community, shall control what exclusively concerns it; and that an individual shall control what exclusively concerns him, is a <u>real</u> popular sovereignty, which no republican opposes—

But this is not Douglas popular sovereignty— Douglas popular sovereignty, as a matter of principle, simply is "If one man will would enslave another, neither the man sought to be enslaved that other, nor any third man, has a right to object"

Douglas popular sovereignty, as he practically applies it, is "If any organized political community, however new and small, would enslave men, or forbid their being enslaved within its own teritorial limits; however the doing the one or the other, may affect the men sought to be enslaved, or the vastly superior number of men who are afterwards to come within those limits; or the family of communities of which is it is but one a member, or the head of that family, as the parent, of and common guardian of the whole — however any, or all, there are to be effected, neither any nor all may interfere"

This is Douglas popular sovereignty—

He has great difficulty with it— His speeches, and letters, and essays, and explanations, of explanations explained, upon it, are legion— The most lengthy, and, as I suppose, the most maturely considered, is that recently published in Harper's Magazine— It has too leading objects— the first, to appropriate the authority, and reverence, done the great and good men of the revolution, to his



popular sovereignty; and secondly, to show that the Dred Scott decision has not entirely squelched his popular sovereignty—

Before considering these main objects, I wish to consider a few minor points of the copy-right essay —

6 Stephen A. Douglas, "The Dividing Line Between Federal and Local Authority: Popular Sovereignty in the Territories," <u>Harper's Magazine</u> 19 (September, 1859), 521-539.

Last year Gov. Seward and myself, at different times and occasions, expressed the opinion that slavery is a durable element of discord, and that we shall not have peace with it, until it either masters, or is mastered by, the free principle— This gave great offence to Judge Douglas; and his denunciations of it, and absurd inferences from it have never ceased. Almost at the very beginning of the copy-right essay he quotes the language respectively of Seward and myself (not quite accurately, but substantially in my case) upon this point, and repeats his absurd and extravagant inferences— For lack of time I omit much which I might say here with propriety; and content myself with two remarks only upon the point— The first is that, in asmuch as Douglas, in this very essay, tells us slavery agitation began in the country, in 1699, and has not yet ceased — has lasted through a hundred and sixty years — through ten entire generations of men — it might have occurred to even him that slavery, in its tendency to agitation and discord, has something slightly durable about it— The second remark is that Judge Douglas might have noticed, if he would while he was diving so deeply into history — the historical fact that the only comparative peace we have had with slavery during that hundred and sixty years, was in the period from the Revolution to 1820 — precisely the period through which we were closing out the African slave-trade, abolishing slavery in several of the states, and restraining the spread of it into new ones, by the ordinance of '87 — precisely the period in which the public mind had reason to rest, and did rest, in the belief that slavery was in course of ultimate extinction—

Another point, which for the present I shall touch only hastily, is Judge Douglas' assumption that the States and teritories differ only in the fact that the States are <u>in</u> the Union, and the teritories are not in it— But if this be the only difference, why not bring instantly bring the teritories in? Why Keep them out? Do you say they are unfitted for it? What unfits them? Especially what unfits them for any duty in the Union, after they are fit, if they choose, to plant the soil they sparsely inhabit, with slaves slavery, beyond the power of the millions of successors to eradicate it, and to the durable discord of the Union?— What function of sovereignty, out of the Union or in it, is so portentous as this? What function of government requires such perfect maturity, in numbers, and everything else, among those who exercise it? It is a concealed assumption of [Dougla's] popular sovereignty that slavery is a little, harmless, indifferent thing; having no wrong in it, and no power for mischief about it— If



all men looked upon it as he does, his policy in regard to it might do— But neither all, nor half the world, so look upon it—

Near the close of the essay Douglas tells us that his popular sovereignty pertains to a people only after they are regularly organized into a political community; and that Congress, in it's discretion, must decide when they are fit in point of numbers, to be so organized— Now, I should like for him to point out, in the constitution any clause conferring that discretion upon Congress, which when pointed out, will not be equally a power in Congress to govern them, in it's discretion, till they are admitted as a state— Will he try? He intimates that before the exercise of that discretion, their number must be ten, fifteen, or twenty thousand— Well, what is to be done for them, or with them, or by them, before they number ten thousand? If any one of them desires to have slaves, is any other one bound to help him, or at liberty to hinder him? Is it his plan that any time before they reach the required, number, those who are on hand, shall be driven out as trespassers— If so, it will probably be a good while before a sufficient number to organize, will get in—

But plainly enough this conceding to congress the [discre]tion as to when a community shall be organized, is a total surrender of his popular sovereignty— He says himself it does not pertain to them a people until they are organized; and that when they shall be organized is in the discretion of Congress— Suppose Congress shall choose to not organize them, until they are numerous enough to come into the Union as a State— By his own rule, his popular sovereignty is derived from Congress, and can not be exercised by the people till Congress chooses to confer it— After toiling through nineteen mortal pages of Harper, to show that Congress can not Keep the people of a new country from excluding slaves, in a single closing paragraph he makes the whole thing depend on Congress at last— And should Congress refuse to organize, how will that affect the question of planting slavery in a new country? If individuals choose to plant it, the people can not prevent them, for they are not yet clothed with popular sovereignty— If it be said that it can not be planted, in fact, without protective law, that is already falsified by history; for it was originally planted on this continent without protective law—

And by the way, it is probable that no act of teritorial organization could be passed by the present Senate; and almost certainly not by both the Senate and House of Representatives— If an act declares the right of Congress to exclude slavery, the Republicans would vote for it, and both wings of the democracy against it— If it denied the power to either exclude or protect it, the Douglasites would vote for it, and both the Republicans and slave-coders against it— If it denied the power to exclude, and asserted the power to protect, the Slave-coders would vote for it, and the Republicans and Douglasites against it—



[Fragment 3]⁷

7 This fragment — consisting of 4 sheets labeled by Lincoln 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5 — seems to have been intended as the second part of a speech. The editors of *Collected Works* treat this as part of Fragment 2. They conjecture that it was "probably prepared in February or March, 1859, for the Kansas state Republican convention and used in part at Chicago, March 1, and Cincinnati, September 17." *Collected Works*, III, 429n.

You [are] now a part of a people of a teritory but that teritory is soon to be [a] State of the Union—Both in your individual and collective capacities, you have the same interest in the past, the present, and the future, of the United States, as any other portion of the people. Most of you came from the States, and all of you soon will be citizens of the common Union—What I shall now address to you will have neither greater nor less application to you, than to any other people of the nation—

You are gathered to-day, as a Republican Convention — republican, in the party sense, and, as we hope, in the true, original, sense of the word republican—

I assume that Republicans, throughout the nation, believe they are right, and are earnest, and determined in their cause—

Let them, then, Keep constantly in view that the chief object of their organization is to prevent the <u>Spread</u> and <u>Nationalization</u>, of Slavery— With this ever distinctly before us we can always better see at what point our cause is most in danger—

We are, as I think, in the present temper, or state of public sentiment, in no danger from the open advocates of a Congressional slave-code for the teritories, and of the revival of the African Slave-trade. As yet we are strong enough to meet, and master any combination openly formed on those grounds— It is only the insidious position of Douglas, that endangers our cause— That position is simply an ambuscade— By entering into contest with our open enemies, we are to be lured into his train; and then, having lost our own organization, and arms, we are to be turned over to those same open enemies—

Douglas' position leads to the <u>nationalization</u> of Slavery as surely as does that of Jeff. Davis, and Mason of Virginia— The two positions are but slightly different roads to the same place — with this difference, that the nationalization of slavery <u>can</u> be reached by Douglas' route, and never can by the other—



I have said that in our present moral tone and temper, we are strong enough for our open enemies; and so we are—But the chief effect of Douglasism, is to change that tone and temper. When who support the measures of a political leader do, almost of necessity, adopt the reasoning and sentiments the leader advances in support of them—The reasoning and sentiments advanced by Douglas in support of his policy as to slavery, all spring from the view that slavery is not wrong—In the first place he never says it is wrong—He says he does not care whether it shall be voted down or voted up—He says whoever wants slavery has a right to have it—He says the question whether people will have it or not is simply a question of dollars and cents—He says the Almighty has drawn a line across the continent, on one side of which the soil must be cultivated by slave labor—

Now, let the people of the free-states adopt these sentiments, and they will be unable to see a single reason for maintaning their prohibitions of slavery in their own states— "What! Do you mean to say that anything in these sentiments requires us to believe it will be the <u>interest</u> of the Northern states to have slavery?" No. I do mean to say, though, that although it is not the interest of the Northern states to grow <u>cotten</u>, none of them have, or need, any law against it; and it would be tyrany to deprive any <u>one</u> man of the privilege to grow cotten in Illinois— There are many individual men in all the free-states who desire to have slaves; and if you admit that slavery is not wrong, it is absolute tyrany to deny them the privilege— It is no just function of government to prohibit what is <u>not wrong</u>—

Again, if slavery is right — ordained by the Almighty — on <u>one side</u> of a line, dividing sister states of a common Union, then it is positively wrong to harrass, and bedevil the owners of it, with constitutions, and laws, and prohibitions of it on the other side of the line—

In short, there is no justification for prohibiting slavery anywhere, save only in the assumption that slavery is <u>wrong</u>— And whenever the sentiment, that slavery is wrong, shall give way in the North, all legal prohibitions of it will also give way—

If it be insisted that men may support Douglas' measures, without adopting his sentiments, let it be tested by what is actually passing before us— You can, even now, find no Douglas man who will disown any one of these sentiments; and none but will actually indorse them, if pressed to the point

Five years ago no living man had placed on record, nor, as I believe, verbally expressed, the opinion a denial that negroes have, no a share in the Declaration of Independence— Two or three years since Douglas began to deny it; and now every Douglas man in the nation denies it—



To the same effect is the absurdity compounded of support to the Dred Scott decision, and unfriendly legislation, to the Slavery, by the teritories — the absurdity which asserts that there a thing may be lawfully driven from a place, at which place it has a lawful right to remain— That absurd position will not be long maintained by any one— The Dred Scott half of it, will soon master the other half— The process will probably be about this: Some teritorial legislature will adopt unfriendly legislation; the Supreme Court will decide that legislation to be unconstitutional, and then the advocates of the present "compound absurdity, will acquiesce in the decisions— The only effect of that postion now is, to prepare it's advocates for such acquiesence when the time comes — Like wood for ox-bows, they are merely being soaked in it, preparatory to the bending— The advocates of a slave code are not now strong enough to master us; and they never will be, unless recruits enough to make them so, be tolled in through the gap of Douglasism— Douglas, on the sly, is effecting more for them, than all their open advocates— He has reason to be provoked, that they will not understand him, and recognize him as their best friend— He can not be more plain, without being so plain, as to lure no one into their trap — so plain, as to lose his power to serve them profitably— Take other instances— Last year both Gov. Seward and myself expressed the belief that this government can not endure permanently half-[slave] and half-free— This gave great offence to Douglas and after the fall election in Illinois, he became quite rampant upon it— At Chicago, St. Louis, Memphis and New-Orleans, he denounced it as a "fatal heresy" With great pride he claimed that he had crushed it in Illinois, and modestly regretted that he could not have been in New-York to crush it there too— How the heresy [is] fatal to any thing, or what the thing is to which it is fatal, he has never paused to tell us— At all events, it is a fatal heresy in his view when expressed by Northern men— Not so, when expressed by men of the South— In 1856, Roger A Pryor, editor of the Richmond Enquirer, expressed the same belief, it in that paper — quite two years before it was expressed by either Seward or me— But Douglas perceived no "heresy" in it then — talked not of going to Virginia to crush it out— Nay more — he now has that same Mr. Pryor at Washington, editing the "States" newspaper as his especial organ—

This brings us to see that in Douglas' view this opinion is a "fatal heresy" when expressed by men wishing to have the nation all <u>free</u>; and is no heresy at all, when expressed by men wishing to have it all <u>slave</u>— Douglas has cause to complain that the South will not note this and give him credit for it—

At Memphis Douglas told his audience that he was for the negro against the crocodile, but for the white man against the negro— This was [not a] sudden thought spontaneously thrown off at Memphis— He said the same thing many times in Illinois last summer and autumn, though I am not sure it was reported then. It is a carefully framed illustration of the estimate he places upon the negro and the manner he would have him dealt with— It is a sort of proposition in proportion— "As the negro is to the crocodile, so the white man is to the negro." As the negro ought to treat



the crocodile as a beast, so the white man ought to treat the negro as a beast. Gentlemen of the South, is not that satisfactory? Will you give Douglas no credit for impressing that sentiment on the Northern mind for your benefit? Why, you should magnify him to the utmost, in order that he may impress it the more deeply, broadly, and surely.

[Fragment 4]⁸

8 This fragment has been numbered by Lincoln, 3-1, 3-2, and presumably is intended to follow Fragment 3.

A hope is often expressed that all the elements of opposition to the so-called democracy may unite in the next presidential elections; and to favor this, it is suggested that at least one candidate on the opposition national ticket, must be resident in the slave states— I strongly sympathize with this hope; and the particular suggestion presents no difficulty with me— There are very many men in the slave states who, as men, and statesmen, and patriots, are quite good enough for acceptable to me for either President or Vice-President — But there is a difficulty of another sort; and I think it most prudent for us to face that difficulty at once— Will those good men of the South occupy any ground upon which we of the free-states can vote for them? There's the rub— They seem to labor under a huge mistake in regard to us— They say they are tired of the agitation— We think the slaves, and free white laboring men too, have more reason to be tired of slavery, that than masters have to be tired of agitation about it—In Kentucky a democratic candidate for congress takes ground against a congressional slave code for the territories; whereupon his opponent, in full hope to unite with Republicans in 1860, takes ground in favor of such slave code—Such hope, under such circumstances, is delusion gross as insanity itself— Rational men can only entertain it, in the strange belief that Republicans are not in earnest for their principles — that they are really devoted to no principle of their own, but are ready for, and anxious to jump to, any position not occupied by the democracy— This mistake must be dispelled. For the sake of their principles, in forming their party they broke and sacrificed, the strongest mere party ties and advantages which can exist— Republicans believe that slavery is wrong; and they insist, and will continue to insist upon a national policy which recognizes it, and deals with it as a wrong— There can be no letting down about this — Simultaneously with such letting down, the republican organization itself would go to pieces, and half it's elements go in a different direction, leaving an easy victory to the common ene[my]— No ingenuity of political trades could possibly hold it together— About this there is no joke, and can be no trifling— Understanding this, that Republicanism can never mix with teritorial slave-codes, becomes self evident—

[Fragment 5]



In this contest, mere men are nothing— We could come down to Douglas, quite as well, as to any other man standing with him; and better than to any other man standing below, or beyond him— The simple problem is, will any good and capable man of the South, allow the Republicans to elect him, on their own platform? If such man can be found, I believe the thing can be done— It can be done, in no other way—

But what do we gain, say you, by such a union? Certainly not much everything; but still something, and quite all that we, for our lives, can possibly give— In yielding a share of the high honors and offices to you, you gain the assurance that ours is not a [illegible] mere struggle to secure those honors and offices for our section— You gain the assurance that we mean no more than we say in our platforms; else we would not entrust you to execute them— You gain the assurance that we intend no invasion of your having rights or your honor, else we would not make one of you the executor of the laws, and commander of the Army and Navy—

[Fragment 6]

As a matter of mere partizan policy, there is no reason <u>for</u>, [and much] <u>against</u>, any letting down of the Republican platform in order to form a union with Southern opposition— By no possibility can a union ticket secure a single electoral vote in the South, unless the Republican platform be so far let down as to lose every electoral vote in the North; and, even at that, not a single vote would be secured in the South, unless, by bare possibility, those of Maryland—

There is no successful basis of union, but for some good Southern man to allow us of the North to elect him square on our own platform— Plainly, it is that, or nothing—

The St. Louis Intelliger is out in favor of a <u>good man</u> for President, to be run <u>without</u> a platform—Well, I am not wedded to the formal written platform system; but a thousand to one, the editor is not himself in favor of his plan, except with the qualification, that he and his sort, are to select and name the "good man" To bring him to the test, is he willing to take <u>Seward</u> without a platform? O, no; Seward's antecedents exclude him, say you—Well, is your <u>good man</u>, without antecedents? If he is, how shall the nation know that he is a good man? The sum of the matter is that, in the absence of formal written platforms, the antecedents of candidates become their platforms—On just such platforms, all our earlier and better Presidents were elected; but this by no means facilitates a union of men who differ in opinion principles—

9 "principles" added in pencil.



Nor [do I] be[lie]ve we can ever <u>advance</u> our <u>principles</u>, by supporting men who are <u>oppos</u> ed to our principles. Last year, as you know, we republicans in Illinois, were advised by numerous, and respectable outsiders to re-elect Douglas to the Senate by our votes— I never questioned the motives of such advisers; nor the devotion to the republican cause of such as professed to be republicans— But I never, for a moment, thought of following the advice; and have never yet regretted that we did not follow it— True, Douglas is back in the Senate in spite of us; but we are <u>clear</u> of <u>him</u>, and <u>his</u> principles; and, untrammeled, we are we are uncrippled and ready to fight both him and them straight along till they shall be finally "closed out"— Had we followed the advice, there would now be no Republican party in Illinois, and none, to speak of, anywhere in the nation else.

The whole thing would now be floundering on along after Douglas, upon the Dred Scott and crocodile theory— It would have been the grandest "<u>haul</u>" for slavery, ever yet made— Our principles [would] still live, and ere long would produce a party; but we should have lost all our past <u>labor</u>, and twenty years of <u>time</u>, by the folly—

Take an illustration— About a year ago all the republicans in congress voted for what was called the Crittenden-Montgomery-bill; ¹⁰ and forthwith Douglas claimed, and still claims, that they were committed to his "gur-reat pur-inciple—" And republicans have been so far embarrassed by the claim, that they have ever since been protesting that they were not so committed, and trying to explain why— Some of the very newspapers which advised Douglas return to the Senate by republican votes, have been largely and continuously engaged in these protests, and explanations— For such, let us state a question in the Rule of Three— If voting for the Crittenden-Montgomery bill, entangles the republicans with Douglas' dogmas for one year, how long would voting for Douglas himself, so entangle, them?

10 The Crittenden-Montgomery Bill proposed that Kansas' Lecompton Constitution be submitted to a carefully supervised popular vote. Should it fail, a new constitution would be drawn up.

It is nothing to the contrary, that republicanism gained something by electing Haskins, Hickman, and Davis—¹¹ They were comparatively <u>small</u> men— I mean no disrespect; they may have large merit; but and Republicans can dally with them, and absorb, or expel them, at pleasure— If they dally with Douglas, he absorbs them—

11 John B. Haskin of New York, John Hickman of Pennsylvania and John G. Davis of Indiana were all anti-Lecompton Democrats in the House of Representatives.



[Fragment 7]¹²

12 This appears to be a revision of Fragment 1, which the editors of *Collected Works* believe, "in common with [Fragment 3] seems to be part of the earlier manuscript prepared in February or March for use in Kansas, and here revised for use at Cincinnati." *Collected Works*, III, 435n.

We want, and must have, a national policy, as to slavery, which deals with it as being a wrong—Whoever would prevent slavery becoming national and perpetual, yields all, when he yields to a policy which treats it either as being <u>right</u>, or as being a matter of indifference—

We admit that the U. S. general government is not charged with the duty of redressing, or preventing, all the wrongs in the wrongs in the world— But that government rightfully may, and, subject to the constitution, ought to, redress and prevent all wrongs, which are wrongs to the nation itself— It is expressly charged with the duty of providing for the general welfare— We think slavery impairs, and endangers the general welfare— Those who do not think this are not of us, and we can not argue with them— We must shape our own course by our own judgment—

We must not disturb slavery in the states where it exists, because the Constitution, and the peace of the country both forbid us— We must not withhold an efficient fugitive slave law, because the constitution demands it—

But we must, by a national policy, prevent the spread of slavery into new territories, or free states, because the constitution does not forbid us, and the general welfare does demand such prevention — We must prevent the revival of the African slave trade, because the constitution does not forbid us, and the general welfare does require the prevention— We must prevent these things being done, by either <u>congresses</u> or <u>courts</u>— The people — the people — are the rightful masters of both Congresses, and courts — not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the <u>men</u> who pervert it—

To effect our main object, we have to employ auxiliary means— We must hold conventions, adopt platforms, select candidates, and carry elections— At every step we must be true to the main purpose— If we adopt a platform, falling short of our principle, or elect a man rejecting our principle, we not only take nothing affirmative by our success; but we draw upon us the positive embarrassment of seeming ourselves to have abandoned our principle—



That our principle, however baffled, or delayed, will finally triumph, I do not permit myself to doubt — Men will pass away — die — die, politically, and naturally, but the principle will live, and live forever— Organizations, rallied around that principle, may, by their own dereliction, go to pieces, thereby losing all their time and labor— But the principle will remain and will reproduce another and another till the final triumph will come—

But to bring it <u>soon</u>, we must save our labor already performed — our organization, which has cost so much time and toil to create— We must keep our principle constantly in view, and never be false to it—

And as to men, for leaders, we must remember that "He that is not <u>for</u> us, is against us; and he that gathereth not with us scattereth"